

**The Labour Party
Scottish Council**

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JA/MK

15th March 1991.

Mr. John McPherson
Secretary
Kingston/Hutchesontown Branch LP
199 McNeil Street
GLASGOW G5.

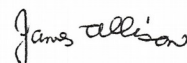
Dear John,

I return herewith the document which you provided me with on Friday
15th March.

I have looked through it very carefully and based on the evidence
contained within the document, it would require to be of a more
substantive nature before initiating disciplinary procedure, and I
believe it would be best if we could arrange, at an appropriate date
after I return from holiday, a meeting embracing Sadie Robertson,
yourself and the Chair and Secretary of Glasgow Central CLP.

I also enclose guidelines drawn up by the Party in connection with
possible disciplinary action against an individual/individuals.

Yours fraternally,



James Allison
Scottish Organiser

PRIVATE

AND

CONFIDENTIAL.

THE ENCLOSED INFORMATION IS PRIVATE AND CONFIDENTIAL.

THIS REPORT HAS BEEN COMPILED FOR THE ATTENTION AND BENEFIT OF
SENIOR MEMBERS OF THE LABOUR PARTY(SCOTLAND)EXECUTIVE.

THE INFORMATION CONTAINED WITHIN, RELATES TO THE BEHAVIOUR AND
ACTIONS OF THREE MEMBERS OF THE HUTCHESONTOWN/KINGSTON BRANCH OF
THE LABOUR PARTY, GLASGOW.

IT SHOULD BE REMEMBERED THAT EACH OF THE ACTIONS DETAILED WITHIN
REGARDING THESE MEMBERS, CAN BE SUBSTANTIATED.

RE: MR.WILLIAM SHARKEY.
MR.KEVIN SHARKEY.
MR.DAVID STEVENSON.

It has for some time now, been clear, not only to members of The Party within Hutchesontown/Kingston, but to community activists of varying political shades, that the aboved named persons have involved themselves within, and outwith, the local political arena to the detriment not only of the Labour party (whom they claim to represent) but also to the community as a whole.

Their actions and behaviour to date, within the Gorbals community, have been an outrage to all free-minded and democratic people, and on several occasions touched upon, and gone beyond, criminal behaviour.

THIS IS A SITUATION WHICH I, AS CHAIRPERSON OF THE ABOVE NAMED BRANCH - NOR ANY OF MY COLLEAGUES - ARE PREPARED TO ACCEPT.

The Gorbals community today, is progressing with a massive regeneration programme which includes thousands of NEW BUILD houses coming onto site in the very near future, an employment and training programme which will go a very long way to eradicate the problems of unemployment and lack of opportunity which has blighted this community for many years; has created a new Housing association which will offer choice and alternatives to its people; will be involved totally with the establishing of leisure and recreational facilities in co-operation with Glasgow District Council and others involved with the Crown St. Regeneration programme.

AT EVERY GIVEN OPPORTUNITY, THE ABOVE NAMED PERSONS HAVE ATTEMPTED TO UNDERMINE THE EFFORTS AND COMMITMENT OF BRANCH MEMBERS AND OTHERS, WHO HAVE WORKED TIRELESSLY TO ACHIEVE THE GOALS AND OBJECTIVES OF THIS TREMENDOUS ENTERPRISE.

THE PHILOSOPHY BEHIND THEIR ACTIONS APPEARS TO BE THAT OF "STIFLING PROGRESS", IN ORDER THAT THE GORBALS BE SEEN TO REMAIN AS "THE LAST BASTION OF SOCIALISM IN GLASGOW". IT IS A "SICK" PHILOSOPHY, AND ONE WHICH IS WHOLLY DETRIMENTAL NOT ONLY TO THE PEOPLE OF THIS COMMUNITY, BUT ALSO TO THE LABOUR PARTY IN SCOTLAND/GLASGOW.

OVER THE PREVIOUS TWELVE MONTHS,MR.W.SHARKEY,MR.KEVIN SHARKEY
AND MR.D.STEVENSON HAVE:

(1) Been reported to the Management of the Gorbals Community Development project for harassment of staff: ie., demanding confidential information regarding outcome of meetings,decisions arrived at,etc. Confronting the Development officer (Mr.R.BOOTH) in the street, making thinly veiled threats as to his future employment within the area if he did not acquiesce to their demands for such information. Threats to his secretary followed this behaviour.

(2) Taken office Bearer positions in the Gorbals Anti-Poll tax Federation, (Mr.Tommy Sheridan being guest speaker) have held such meetings at the same venue and room as the Labour Party monthly meetings; have been responsible for leafletting anti-poll tax material attached to the surgery cards of Mike Watson M.P., thus identifying Labour Party policy with the Anti-Poll Tax Federation and inferring Mr.Watson to be wholly supportive of their actions.

The advice given out by them on this issue, and believed by many older voters in the area to be Party policy, has resulted in dozens of elderly and young people losing out on rebates,consequently finding themselves confronted by demands from the Region and Sheriff officers for hundreds of pounds which they were not legally entitled to pay. This outrage has now been thrown onto the local welfare rights officer to sort out.

(3) Become involved with "Workers City", ie., "THE GLASGOW KEELIE", and where responsible for a scurrilous and libelous article attacking the Chair of the Branch, the minute secretary and Labour District Councillor,James Mutter, Citing information which was privy only to Branch members.

(4) Harassed staff and Committee members of Gorbals Unemployed Workers Centre,where W.and K.Sharkey themselves were members of this Committee. A meeting was held at Glasgow City Chambers with Councillor Mutter and Mike Blair in attendance along with all other members of the Management Committee. A decision of expulsion was taken against both men from the Committee and the Centre, and a warning as to their future conduct in all District Council run enterprises with threats of police action and interim interdicts being taken out against them.

(5) Mr.W.Sharkey, a founder member of the NEW GORBALS HOUSING ASSOCIATION, again found that an expulsion order was passed against him by the Association for "ACTIONS DETRIMENTAL TO THE INTERESTS OF THE ASSOCIATION"

(5) CONTINUED: Such actions included remarks to the effect of "NO SELL-OUTS" and "NO PRIVATISATION" of the Gorbals. He was also adjudged, among other things, of verbal and offensive remarks against his own Association Committee colleagues.

(6) Mr. John Hynes, co-ordinator of Gorbals Unemployed Workers Centre and Labour Party member from Kirkintilloch, has testified that Mr. D. Stevenson made remarks to him and others that the Chair of Hutchesontown/Kingston Branch Labour Party, Mrs. S. Robertson, and Minute Secretary, Mr. John McPherson, colluded to give employment to a female welfare rights officer of their acquaintance. This is an outrageous assertion and one which is categorically untrue.

As has been said, all of the above can and will be substantiated by evidence.

However, what cannot be substantiated in terms of "hard facts", is the identity of those people who were responsible for:

(7) "NO PRIVATISATION!" "NO GORBALS SELL-OFF" graffiti painted throughout the area.

(8) The display of "Glasgow Keelie" articles detrimental to local Party office bearers and Councillors exhibited on walls and shops throughout the district.

(9) The infantile and vulgar action of spitting on the Chair and Minute secretary's vehicles at the conclusion of Labour Party monthly meetings.

(10) Rumours of nepotism and favouritism by Party members in terms of employment within the area.

(11) Rumours of corruption by Party officials and community activists

(12) The leaking of misinformation regarding development works within the area discussed at Party meetings.

It should be noted that Mr.W.Sharkey has been an office bearer on almost every Community and Political Committee set up in the area to counter-act the effects of poverty,unemployment etc, and with the exception of one position, he has - through his own volition of aggression and harassment - found himself removed from such posts.

It is of the deepest concern to us within the Gorbals Community, that Mr.Sharkey and the others named above, retain their places as members of the Labour Party. Their membership within it is clearly to be seen as a political platform which is completely detrimental to the interests of that Party. Theirs is not a Socialist ideology, but an anarchistic attitude which is being inflicted upon the good members of this Party and this Community.

Mr.W. Sharkey's position as office Bearer within the Gorbals Community Council has, once again, proved problematic and detrimental to the interests of this community: Once again, because of his actions - being seen to use the Council as a political platform - the Council is under investigation and is now threatened with disbandment.

It is my sincere hope, having outlined what we within this community have had to endure merely in the past twelve months, that the actions and behaviour of the persons named within this report are looked at with the most critical of eyes.

We as a Branch of the Labour party and as community activists, do not look to the executive to "show us the way", we ourselves have had to deal with this matter, these people and this issue for a long time past. No, what we ask for is the FULL SUPPORT of the Party in order that we retain credibility within this district which is quickly becoming a laughing stock to other political adversaries. In particular the S.N.P. who have shown more than a little interest in this area as of late!

We need support, we need action and we need decisions on this matter now. At the end of the day, it is not only this community who will suffer by the actions of these members, but the Party itself!

MRS.S.ROBERTSON.
HUTCHESONTOWN/KINGSTON: LABOUR PARTY.

12-3-1991.



City of Glasgow

Town Clerk's Office,
City Chambers,
Glasgow G2 1DU
Central Switchboard 041-221 9600

STEVEN F. HAMILTON, J.P., B.L., D.P.A., D.M.S.
Town Clerk and Chief Executive
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Solicitor to the Council

Fax 041-227 5666 Telex 777762 GDCHQ G Rutland Exchange GW 269

Your Ref.....

PCU/DH/ELW/1989 -

Our Ref...Mr. Horner.....

4725

To telephone direct dial 041-227

19 August 1991

Dear Sir

Urban Programme 1991/92
Gorbals Furniture Project

Thank you for your letter of 18 July 1991 enclosing a proposed list of representatives for the Steering Committee of Gorbals Furniture Project.

1. As the application indicates that the project will serve Govanhill, Kinning Park and East Pollokshields as well as Gorbals, I feel that it is important that all four areas are properly represented on the Steering Committee. At the very least, it is important that the local community councils or other relevant organisations for these areas should be invited to be represented on the Management Committee/Steering Committee.
2. I am also concerned that Messrs D Stevenson, W Sharkey and K Sharkey are on the Steering Group; in March this year, a decision was taken by the Management Committee of the Gorbals Unemployed Workers' Centre to remove K Sharkey and W Sharkey from the Management Committee and to withdraw their membership, and D Stevenson had his membership withdrawn. In these instances the withdrawal of membership was due to disruption of the Unemployed Workers' Centre, and I feel that it would be inappropriate for the District Council to, so soon afterwards, permit these three individuals to have positions of management responsibility on another urban programme funded project.

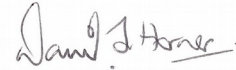
I feel that these matters need to be resolved to the satisfaction of the Council before it will be possible to release any funds for the furniture project.

The Steering Group
Gorbals Furniture Project
c/o Mr Robert Booth
Gorbals Initiative
52 Waddell Street
GLASGOW G5

If corresponding in connection with this matter please quote the reference given above and address to the Town Clerk.

Although you are not a member of the Steering Group, I understand that you are working with the Group to develop the project, and I should be grateful if you would please take these matters up with them.

Yours faithfully

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "David J. Horner". The signature is written in a cursive style with a horizontal line under the last name.

South Area Co-ordinator

Mr. David Stevenson,
341 Caledonia Road,
Flat 14B,
Gorbals, Glasgow,
G5 0JU.

3rd. September, 1991.

Clr. John Lavelle,
The City Chambers,
George Square,
Glasgow,
G2 1DU.

Dear John,

Further to our conversation in the City Chambers on Monday 2nd Sept., 1991, I would like to raise the following points with you.

Firstly, on the 12th March, 1991, I was informed by a member of the Hutchesontown Leisure Halls, that a decision had been taken by the Gorbals Unemployed Workers' Centre Management Committee to terminate my membership of the Unemployed Workers' Centre.

Following from hearing of this decision I approached the co-ordinator of the Centre, Mr. Hynes, regarding this matter. At first Mr. Hynes refused to comment on this matter but eventually he confirmed that the information given to me was correct. He then told me that I would receive confirmation of this decision in writing. On being told this I asked Mr. Hynes to include in this letter the following -

a.) The reason why my membership was terminated.

b.) My rights of appeal against this decision.

As you will agree these points are the minimum requirements of natural justice.

The letter I received from Mr. Hynes only confirmed the Management Committee's decision. Please find enclosed a copy of this, and to date I have not received the above information that I requested.

I am also concerned that the termination of my membership would appear to have no constitutional basis.

I would also like to raise with you comments made by Mr. Hynes at a Management committee meeting, held on Monday 11th. March, 1991, in the City Chambers. In the minute of this meeting Mr. Hynes gave a verbal report of "Disruptions within the Centre during the week commencing Monday 4th. March" and "On Thursday of that week a demonstration took place within the Centre, please find a copy of this minute enclosed. Mr. Hynes also, in a letter to Mr. K. Gormal, Town Clerk's Office dated 23rd. May, 1991, refers to disruptions within the centre from January - March, 1991, please find enclosed a copy of this letter. These comments are not supported by any of the management committees' meeting minutes prior to the week ending 8th. March, 1991, as looking through these minutes there is no mention of disruptions of any kind nor are these comments supported in his own reports prior to 11th. March, 1991, there are no mention of disruptions within the Centre. As a matter of fact his own report dated Friday 8th. March, 1991, the day after the so called "demonstration within the Centre" made no reference to any type of disruption or disturbance within the Centre, please find a copy of this report enclosed.

Your comments on the matters I have raised with you would be very much appreciated.

I feel that I have been treated very badly by the Unemployed Workers' Centre and that I have recieved no natural justice concerning the termination of my membership of this Centre.

I have, once again, applied for membership of the Gorbals Unemployed Workers' Centre, please find enclosed a copy of my application.

If you need any further information on any of the points I have raised with you, please do not hesitate to get in touch with me at the address given or by phoning 429 0287.

Thanking you for any help you can give me and I look forward to hearing from you soon,

Yours in comradeship,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'D Stevenson', with a stylized circular flourish at the beginning.

David Stevenson.

cc. Cl1R. J. Mutter, G.D.C.
cc. Cl1R. S. McCartney, S.R.C.